

***In the Specification***

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The general rules of connectivity for the firmware data structure as disclosed and described herein pertain to the level of the resource within the data structure. A sibling node is a node sharing a common parent with the current node. The parent of sibling nodes is either another node structure in another layer or the extended system descriptor. All resources that are declared in a given node structure are equally accessible from all other resources in that same node which includes all subnodes. However, when a node contains subnodes, resources in a subnode are implicitly accessible from a resource in the node in a symmetrical fashion, and resources in the node are implicitly accessible from resources in the subnode. All resource resources in a sibling node are equally accessible from a given node provided a system interconnect exists that connects the two nodes, either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, the latency of accessing different resources within the system is dependent upon their level within the node structure.